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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

Baptists make impact on Nepal

BGR brings food, hope to forgotten villagers

NEPAL (BP) — The Nepali man pulled brick after brick off a pile of rubble that was once his home. He passed along anything that was salvageable to his children to set aside. Finally, down in a hole, he found what he was looking for — their food storage.

The splintered, dusty woven basket held their entire harvest of rice. Before the April 25 earthquake in Nepal, this basket brimmed with white grains. Today, he pulled out one handful of red-stained rice.

"It might taste like dirt now, but we can still eat it," he said. "It will fill our stomachs."

He excitedly instructed the children to help sift through the rubble to find more food — garlic, onions, peppers, and rice — in the remains of their home. Their tedious labor stopped abruptly when they heard shouting up the hill. A neighbor yelled down for everyone to come quick.

For days on end, the villagers took turns sitting on the edge of the main road trying to get help. From the road, their collapsed village on the mountainside



TO THE RESCUE — Residents of a village in Nepal celebrate the delivery of Southern Baptist relief supplies with Francis Horton, who is coordinating the Baptist Global Relief (BGR) effort in Nepal after a pair of devastating earthquakes and associated aftershocks ravaged the small Asian country. The village had been overlooked in the original international relief effort. (BP photo courtesy of BGR)

couldn't be seen. They watched as big trucks of relief supplies passed them by, headed to larger towns down the road.

Hope of receiving any kind of help began to die little by little, until two vehicles backed down a rocky path just wide enough and stopped in an open area. Loaded in the truck beds sat more than 40 giant bags of rice provided

by the Baptist Global Response (BGR), the relief wing of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A weathered grandmother excitedly clapped her hands as young men unloaded the 30 kilo (66 lb.) bags. "The trucks kept passing us by, but not you," she said over and over to anyone who would listen. "Now we have food!"

BGR continues to find pockets of need in Nepal. Their goal is to find five or six "impact communities," like this village, in which to work long-term — communities that have been hit hard by two devastating earthquakes just 17 days apart.

see NEPAL on p. 7

CAC search committee accepting résumés

Résumés and inquiries are now being received for the position of executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC), according to search committee chairman Wayne Kimbrough, pastor of Calvary Church, Greenwood.

The CAC, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, provides Biblical perspectives on moral, social, and ethical issues. Jimmy D. Porter retired April 30, 2015, after serving as CAC executive director-treasurer for 15 years.

In addition to Kimbrough, other CAC trustees serving as members of the search committee include:

■ Roy Dabbs, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Meridian.

■ Tammy Pearson, member of First Church, Jackson.

■ Dan Robertson, associational missions director of Golden Triangle Association and member of Fairview Church, Columbus.

■ Diane Thompson, member of First Church, Brandon.

Résumés and inquiries should be mailed to Wayne Kimbrough at 912 North Park Circle, Greenwood, MS 38930 or e-mailed to wkimbroughcbe@yahoo.com.

Boy Scouts to allow homosexual leaders



ATLANTA (BP) — The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) should end its ban on homosexual adult leaders, BSA President Robert Gates said May 21, lending credence to the concern expressed in a 2013 Southern Baptist Convention resolution that opening the group's membership to homosexual youth was "merely the first step toward future approval of homosexual adult leaders in the Scouts."

In related news, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America has reaffirmed its policy of accepting transgendered persons into membership. The reaffirmation came in response to objections by conservative organizations, including the American Family Association, to allowing boys "who are confused" to join, CNN reported May 20.



GATES

A policy allowing homosexual Scout leaders "was a matter of time," said Ernest Easley, who was chairman of the SBC Executive Committee in 2013. "Back when they changed their thinking regarding the boys themselves, I knew that within a year or so they would reverse their stand with the leadership and frankly, I think it was the plan to begin with: Start with the kids. We get that done. Then we come back later with the adults."

Gates, a former CIA director and U.S. secretary of defense, told attendees of the BSA annual meeting in Atlanta he is not asking the national board to change the leadership policy immediately, but he said the Scouts must

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Prepare to die

Do you remember the massive derision a few years ago when conservatives warned that "death panels" were part of the 2,200-page legislation that became known as Obamacare? The criticism was withering.

"Right now it seems there is an intentional effort to distort what's in the legislation and that's confusing the public debate," sniffed John Rother at the time, executive vice president of policy for the American Association of Retired People (AARP), which heartily supported the Obamacare legislation.

The death panels allegation was even named Lie of the Year at the time by a prominent web site. "Of all the falsehoods and distortions in the political discourse this year, one stood out from the rest... that the government would set up boards to determine whether seniors and the disabled were worthy of care," according to Politifact.com, which claims non-partisanship but is owned by the St. Petersburg Times, one of the most liberal newspapers in the country.

"There is nothing in any of the legislative proposals that would call for the creation of death panels or any other governmental body that would cut off care for the critically ill as a cost-cutting measure," wrote The New York Times at the time. "But over the course of the past few months, early, stated fears from anti-abortion conservatives that Mr. Obama would pursue a pro-abortion, pro-euthanasia agenda, combined with twisted accounts of actual legislative proposals that would provide financing for optional consultations with doctors about hospice care and other 'end of life' services, fed the rumor to the point where it overcame the debate."

Now we know the Times was wrong (as usual). The Obamacare monstrosity does indeed contain provisions for unfettered abortion, and has been defined and enforced as such by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It may not contain exact wording about death panels, but massive federal bureaucracies like HHS are not accountable to voters and can impose anything on us that they choose.

At the least, there are strong implications in the law to the effect of death panels and, listening to our leading liberal intellectuals, it's only a matter of time.

"Some years down the pike, we're going to get the real solution, which is going to be a combination of death panels and sales taxes," said Paul Krugman, a Noble Prize-winning economist and New York Times columnist, during a discussion several years ago on ABC's This Week with Christiane Amanpour show regarding the state of the national economy and the constant federal budget overruns.

Later on in his New York Times blog, Krugman tried to walk back his comments to Amanpour. "What I meant is that health care costs will have to be controlled..." Right. Thanks for the clarification.

Robert Reich, the secretary of labor in the Clinton Administration and one of the leading liberal lights in the country, frankly told an audience at the University of California at Berkeley in 2009 that after the federal government implements measures that will mean "less innovation... less new products and less new drugs," they shouldn't expect to "live much longer than your parents."

"And by the way, we are going to have to — if you're very old, we're not going to give you all that technology and all those drugs for the last couple of years of your life to keep you maybe going for another couple of months. It's too expensive, so we're going to let you die," Reich said.

In many parts of what we know as Western Civilization, that's already the case. In The Netherlands, people can be euthanized against their will when they become too great a drag on that country's overburdened hospital system. In England, mothers undergo childbirth on filthy streets in front of hospitals because they have been denied admittance. In Oregon and other places in the U.S., one can now choose assisted suicide.

Human life doesn't mean much to humans. Wars, pogroms, genocide, legalized abortion, and eugenics are stark evidence of that fact. Now we have the specter of death panels and euthanasia to add to the list. Why is that? Why are we so intent on saving whales and baby seals, while at the same time devising new and better ways to wipe as many people as possible off the face of the earth as quickly as possible?

The Bible makes it clear that such is not the intent of our Creator. We are important to Him, if not to ourselves. Will it be too late when we finally learn that lesson?

Can courts bestow dignity?

For Justice Anthony Kennedy, considered the Supreme Court's swing vote on the issue of same sex marriage, "dignity" looms as a key factor after oral arguments over same-sex marriage at the Supreme Court.

Kennedy and John Bursch, attorney for states wanting to make their own marriage laws, got into an exchange about dignity during the two-and-a-half-hour session at the Supreme Court on April 29.

"What they are asking you to do," Bursch said, "is take an institution which was never intended to be [dignity]-bestowing and make it [dignity]-bestowing. That's their whole argument."

"I don't understand this is not dignity-bestowing," Kennedy responded. "I thought that was the whole point of marriage. It bestows dignity on both man and woman in a traditional marriage."

Kennedy, who used the word "dignity" numerous times, almost single-handedly has turned it into a doctrine, starting in the 1990s when he wrote that dignity was a basis of why the abortion decision *Roe v. Wade* should be upheld in another case. He used it in 2013's *United States v. Windsor* case striking down the federal definition of marriage. The result was a domino effect of judges overruling voter-approved marriage definitions in the states. Lawyers started using it as the basis for their arguments.

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli picked up on it, and the word "dignity" came up in his opening statement on behalf of the federal government: "The opportunity to marry is integral to human dignity. Excluding gay and lesbian couples from marriage demeans the dignity of these couples."

The problem is that dignity isn't a constitutional concept. It's the court's job to interpret the Constitution, not bestow dignity. The court doesn't define the term. Yet Kennedy's emphasis on it has caused other judges to hold it up as a right, like equality and liberty.

This is new territory. If dignity is the basis for granting a new right, the chain of logic could allow any group to claim dignity violations. Jeffrey Rosen, writing in *The Atlantic*, used the examples of Obamacare violating the dignity of



Guest opinion
with Mary Reichard

Americans who don't want to be forced to buy something they don't want, tobacco lovers feeling undignified by no-smoking rules, or gun owners losing dignity when gun laws are passed.

Driving the redefinition of marriage are the personal stories of the petitioners, some already-married same-sex couples with children. "In terms of the question of who decides, it's not about the court versus the states. It's about the individual making the choice to marry and with whom to marry, not the government," attorney Mary Bonauto for same sex marriage advocates said, meaning each person gets to decide what the government should recognize as marriage.

If that is so, then rules against incest, against the number of people in a marriage, and age restrictions are in jeopardy as well.

Justice Antonin Scalia predicted this expansion of individual rights more than a decade ago. In 2003, the court's majority overturned a state sodomy law in *Lawrence v. Texas*. Scalia's dissent then stated that the decision was the beginning of the end of all morals legislation.

So what's next in that progression? Where does it end? What legal argument props up laws against bigamy, against adult incest, against prostitution? That question has never been answered, but don't be surprised when it is.

Reichard is the legal affairs correspondent for *WORLD Magazine*. Used by permission from *WORLD News Service*, a division of *WORLD Magazine* (www.worldmag.com). Her commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.

THE BaptistRecord

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Amy Massey
amassey@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Camille Anding, Etta T. R. Darsey, Winona Whit Lewis, New Albany
Derrick Wilson, Kosciusko
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Custom Bible studies now within reach, LifeWay says

NASHVILLE (BP) — Where can a church begin looking for the right Bible study materials? For some, it may be within the church itself.

With help from a new web-based tool offered by LifeWay Christian Resources, a congregation can now have easier access to customizable content that accompanies a sermon series or undergirds a special church-wide campaign.

"Up until now, if a church needed curriculum written specifically for them, the only real option was to invest a significant amount of time and money in producing it themselves," said Michael Kelley, director of Groups Ministry at LifeWay and executive editor of *HomeLife* magazine. Even for churches that may have the resources to manage a project of this size, the work often suffers, Kelley said, "because the church is simply too pressed for time in all their areas of ministry."

To solve that problem, Kelley and others at LifeWay developed SmallGroup.com. "With SmallGroup.com, a church can have customized content and still devote their energy to other areas of ministry," Kelley said.

The site has more than 1,200 searchable studies on 400 topics from all 66 books of the Bible. Kelly said if a passage or topic isn't available, SmallGroup.com users can request a specific study at no additional charge and a LifeWay curriculum specialist will contact them within 48 hours.

Users can also add church-specific logos and terminology to their Bible study templates.

Kelley pointed to three specific small group approaches that were part of the development of SmallGroup.com. The first approach involved developing a helpful approach to churches that prefer sermon-based content. Churches can create simple, six-week campaigns to coincide with the weekend sermons.



Register for a free online demonstration Sign In

Seriously custom.

Your people are unique. Now your Bible studies can be, too.



Begin today for free.

Start my trial now

- Get 14 days access and the ability to build and share up to 8 study sessions.
- There's no obligation and no credit card required.
- More features are on their way!

Try smallgroup.com free for two weeks.

The second type of approach considered in developing SmallGroup.com was the long-range planning church. With static curriculum, churches are limited in how far ahead they can see the small group material. "A church could plan months and months of Bible studies according to their own ministry trajectory," Kelley said.

Churches that want to empower their group leaders were the third type of

church discussed when planning the resource. "At SmallGroup.com, a church can give every group leader access to the tool, allowing each group to have their own custom approach to Bible study. All the while, the church staff can see exactly what each group is studying at a given time," Kelley said.

For churches interested in SmallGroup.com, there is a two-week free trial. Multiple leaders and staff members can

sign up for their own trial, so several people within a church can experience it for themselves, Kelley said.

He said subscriptions are intentionally designed to be affordable, starting at less than \$20 per month. The pricing scale is set by how many group members are using the content from SmallGroup.com, not the total number of members or attendees at the church, Kelley said.

Television's sexual violence against children, teens setting off alarms

LOS ANGELES (BP) — The *Family Guy* animated comedy series increasingly jokes about sexual violence against children and teens, with nearly 80% of all such scenes in the past three years perpetrated against that population group, a Parent Television Council (PTC) study found.

Jokes or humorous depictions of rape against children, statutory rape, molestation, or pedophilia were included in 91% of the series' scenes depicting sexual violence in the 2014-2015 season, up from 75% in 2012-2013, according to the PTC study.

"Why would we ever want to be in the position to laugh at humanity's worst offenses against children?" PTC President Tim Winter asked in a May 19 press release, "and at whose expense are we being asked to laugh? Our research report should give every parent cause for concern. At a time when nearly one in three women in America is sexually abused, why would a televi-

sion network air a primetime program that routinely asks us to laugh at sexual violence?"

On any given Sunday evening, half a million children watch the series, Winter said. Fox Broadcasting, which airs the series, rated all shows in the study period as appropriate viewing for a 14-year-old.

"All of this content aired in the early hours of primetime, when the network knows that millions of children are watching television. We are deeply troubled by the potential impact to children who may become desensitized to, or who will trivialize, real-life consequences of such horrendous conduct," Winter said. "Family Guy has been given a pass for too long, and it's time for that to change."

The PTC will contact corporate sponsors of every episode that included jokes about raping children, Winter said.

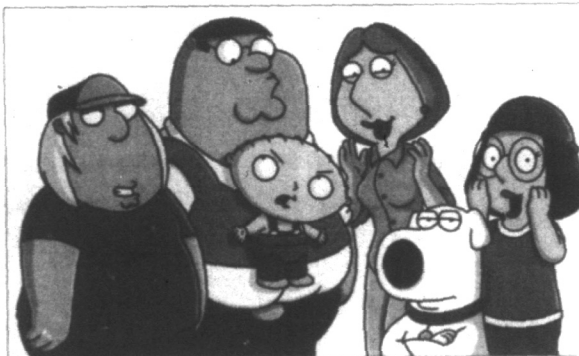
"We hope our report is a clarion call for parents who are un-

aware of the troubling content on *Family Guy*," he said. "We call on the Fox-Broadcast Network to cease using the publicly-owned airwaves to trivialize sexual violence — especially sexual violence against children."

Viewing such media is harmful to children, giving them the message that sexual violence is not offensive, said Mary Anne Layden, a psychotherapist and director of education at the University of Pennsylvania Center for Cognitive Therapy.

"Media makers may call what they make 'entertainment' but everything a child sees is actually 'education' — for better or for worse. If they [children] hear jokes about sexual violence, they 'learn' that sexual violence is not much of a problem, not much of a crime, and doesn't really hurt anyone," Layden said in the press release.

"Research indicates that children who watch media with sexualized content are more likely



to engage in sex of all sorts and to engage in it earlier and suffer the consequences, whether it be pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases or engaging in non-consenting sex. Media makers must take responsibility for the outcomes their products produce in children."

Of the 21 episodes from the 2014-2015 season included in the study period, there were 23 scenes containing some form of sexual violence, 21 of which were jokes and humorous depictions regarding the sexual violation of children, the PTC found.

Writer and producer Coleman Luck, a PTC Advisory Board member, said "over the past decades, a kind of darkness has settled over much of the storytelling in American television and it is having a deep effect on the audience."

In the study, PTC analyzed the content of every first-run *Family Guy* episode that aired between Feb. 16, 2012 and Feb. 15, 2015, examining the type, quantity, and graphic nature of content. All of the scenes aired between 8:30-9 p.m. Eastern Time.

I know what that feels like. I am not just being critical, because it is an unending search to try to find appropriate words for an appropriate setting in a group. Though it has been decades ago, I still remember what I did on the Sunday of one of my first Mother's Day events as the pastor. In the business of life and just preparing for the next Sunday trying to come



Well, for one thing it means that it is appropriate. Sometimes we say things that are just inappropriate. I'm not talking about using foul language. I'm just talking about, it's inappropriate. We don't intend for it to be like that, but it comes out that way, sideways and doesn't fit the place nor the room nor the setting nor the mood. However, a fitly spoken word is appropriate. When you think about inappropriate words I don't know that it could be any worse than the young preacher who got a call about one of his members who was at death's door. The young preacher jumped in his car, headed to the hospital, rushed in the door, down the hall, went to the room, and found that his member was still alive. He rushed in and spoke to him and said, "I'm so glad that I got here in time. I was so afraid you were going to die before I got here." That is not a word fitly spoken. Sometimes the best thing

I don't suppose that there's anybody who has been noted for making strange verbiage that just makes you wonder, "What does that mean?" more than Yogi Berra, the Hall of Fame catcher for the Yankees. There are books written on Yogi because he would say the strangest things that almost made sense but made none. Speaking of baseball, he said, "Ninety percent of this game is half mental." He and some friends going out to eat were talking about what restaurant they would go to and somebody suggested one and he said, "No one eats there anymore; it's too crowded." It was Yogi who said, "When you come to the fork in the road, take it." On the other hand, there are people

What if you want to tell someone like it is, tell them that you care and that you love them and that you're praying for them. God may be able to take it and fit it into the transformation of someone's life because you spoke.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

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THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Foundation News • Spring 2015

Plant an Endowment...Grant an Education



Deborah Hall
Executive Director
MBF

Thirty-five years have passed since I entered college in January 1980. Having graduated high school a semester early, I registered for 15 hours of coursework at a local college. My total tuition was around \$800. Current students can expect to pay around \$7,600 for tuition each semester at this same institution. In other

words, tuition has increased about 9.5 times since I was a freshman.

When I began college, the Federal minimum wage was \$3.10 per hour. Because I had saved money from one full-time and two part-time jobs (one was cutting grass) during the summer of 1979, I felt that I might be able to finish college in a reasonable amount of time if I continued to work my regular part-time job throughout the year and cut grass in the spring and summer.

Today, the Federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour (2.33 times the 1980 rate) while the tuition rate is almost 10 times higher now than in 1980. Thus, the cost

of a college education has increased four times faster and higher than minimum wage. Please understand, entering the ongoing minimum wage debate is not my goal. Rather, these figures serve to underscore the reality that the vast majority of current (and future) students simply will be unable to afford a college education regardless of their ambition, initiative, determination, and work ethic unless they have some outside assistance.

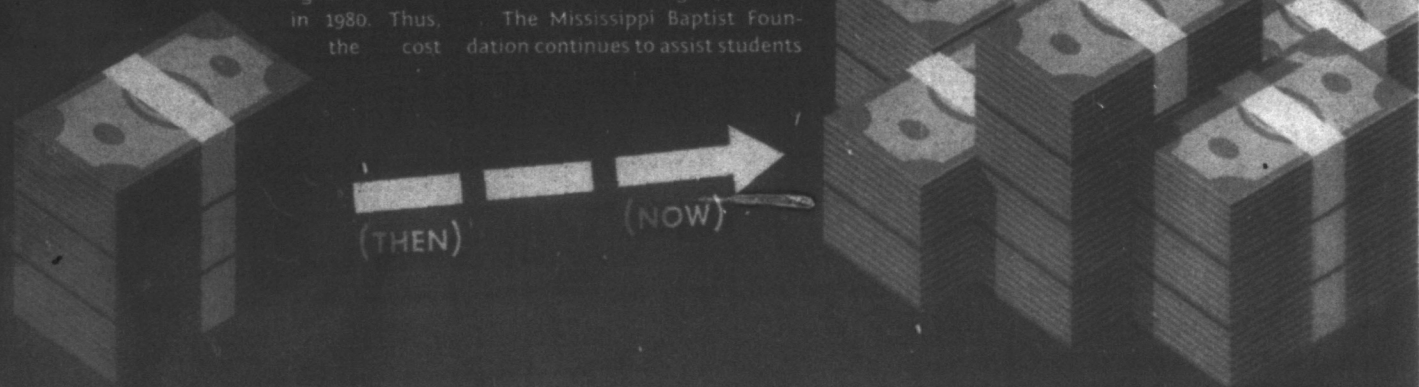
Some students have to rely on outside assistance provided in the form of student loans. According to recent surveys and estimates, borrowers in Mississippi have outstanding student loan debt of over \$26,000 each. Concerning her student loan burden, one Mississippi resident stated in a recent newspaper article, "I will probably die with student loan debt."

Fortunately, I did not have to rely on student loans during my undergraduate experience as a huge blessing came from the Lord in the form of a scholarship from the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Each semester, I received a small grant from the Foundation which supplemented my earnings in order to help meet the financial obligations associated with a college education.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation continues to assist students

pursue their academic, vocational, and ministry goals by offering scholarship awards. Outside of a few exceptions, eligible applicants should be enrolled in a Baptist college in Mississippi (undergraduate degree) or a Southern Baptist seminary (masters-level degree). In addition, applicants must be active members of a cooperating Southern Baptist church in Mississippi. A review of the MBF website (www.msbbaptistfoundation.org) offers some additional information regarding our scholarship ministry. This edition of Foundation News is intended to highlight our 2014-15 scholarship recipients while also making you aware of ongoing needs and opportunities available through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and our scholarship ministry.

*Continued
on MBF
News page 4*



2014-2015 Mississippi Baptist Fellowship



BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Benjamin Tracey Adkins.....New Albany, MS
Cody Allen.....Oxford, MS
Marlie Dubourg Anderson.....Hickory Flat, MS
Jennifer Nicole Boucher.....Vardaman, MS
James Baker.....Ripley, MS
Victoria Brooke Baldwin.....New Albany, MS
Lauren Baldwin.....Plantersville, MS
Zachary Austin Bennett.....Ripley, MS
Cassidy Michele Blylock.....Balden, MS
Ciara Dawn Boyle.....Holly Springs, MS
Josselyn Brown.....Guntown, MS
Taylor Olivia Campbell.....Corinth, MS
George Andrew Chasteen.....Winona, MS
Kavlyn Clark.....Houlka, MS
Patrick Clendinning.....Brandon, MS
Joshua E. Cline.....Grenada, MS
Ana Coleman.....Pearl, MS
Ryan Dewberry.....Maben, MS
Mauree Lemme Dismukes.....Grenada, MS
Courtney Floyd.....Brandon, MS
Matt Hrazior.....New Albany, MS
Emily G.....Pontotoc, MS
Treston Hamilton.....Tuka, MS
Chelice Beatrice Harber.....Corinth, MS
Anna Michael Harris.....Belmont, MS
Katie Harris.....Tupelo, MS
Morgan Brooke Harrison.....New Albany, MS
Danielle Malneck.....Amory, MS
Morgan A. Hendrix.....Olive Branch, MS
Jania Hill.....Ripley, MS
Derick Hunter.....Plymouth, MS
Haley James.....Meridian, MS
Timothy Dalton Jeter.....Ripley, MS
James Samuel Kirkland.....New Albany, MS
Jared Allan Knight.....Pontotoc, MS
Bailey Brooke Littlejohn.....New Albany, MS
Brandi Nichelle Long.....Booneville, MS
Wory Malone.....Corinth, MS
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Morgan Rhodes.....Dennis, MS
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Rebekah G. Rinehart.....Houston, MS

Sarah Roberson.....Aikabuto, MS
Stephanie Rowell.....Nuttleton, MS
Micah Clay Russell.....Pontotoc, MS
Summer Sanderson.....New Albany, MS
Carter Paul Smith.....Booneville, MS
William Thompson.....Brandon, MS
Avery Bryce Thorn.....Belmont, MS
Courtney Vanderford.....Rienzi, MS
Rachel Walker.....Ripley, MS
John Reese Ward III.....Pontotoc, MS
Matty Watkins.....Potts Camp, MS
Kristie Webb.....Holly Springs, MS
Randy Weeks.....Caledonia, MS
Kayleigh White.....New Albany, MS



GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Robert Lee Davis.....Southaven, MS
Tyler James Sanders.....Hattiesburg, MS
Maria Teel.....Holly Springs, MS



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Allie Nicole Acord.....Meridian, MS
Emily Elise Alston.....Byram, MS
Kasy Avey.....Flowood, MS
Ashley Lauren Aycock.....Byram, MS
Austin Wayne Boney.....Madison, MS
Kathryn Anne Barber.....Brandon, MS
Wesley Ward Barker.....Grenada, MS
Laura-Katharina Barker.....Grenada, MS
Skylar Beerman.....Southaven, MS
Austin Caleb Biggs.....Clinton, MS
Connor Blackwell.....Brandon, MS
Noah Ridge Bowlin.....Mendenhall, MS
Amelia Katherine Brashier.....Ellisville, MS
Brenton Andrew Earl Breland.....Pattersonville, MS
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Sarah Clifton.....Ridgeland, MS
Ashley Crick.....Southaven, MS
Laura Cullen.....Oxford, MS
Derby Faith Daman.....Madison, MS
Anne Kayleigh Dawney.....Brandon, MS
Maegan Easley.....Brandon, MS
Lauren Nicole Evans.....Ridgeland, MS

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Angelica Grace Fillingane.....Jackson, MS
Claire Elise Fisher.....Madison, MS
Jonathan Fletcher.....Flowood, MS
Hunter Floyd.....Hattiesburg, MS
Hayden Brooks Fortenberry.....Magee, MS
Connor Fortenberry.....Madison, MS
Braydon Hunter Foster.....Brookhaven, MS
Emmalyn Fay.....Pearl, MS
David Franklin.....Crystal Springs, MS
Sallie Gardner.....Columbus, MS
Morgan Elizabeth Gough.....Brandon, MS
Taylor Alyse Gough.....Brandon, MS
Abigail Lee Gifford.....Clinton, MS
Taylor Lawson Giles.....Brandon, MS
Lauren Ashley Giles.....Brandon, MS
Matthew Grafton.....Laurel, MS
Haley Gray.....Brandon, MS
Cole Gressett.....Brandon, MS
Maegan Carol Hall.....Madison, MS
Zachary Witt Halliwell.....Brookhaven, MS
Erin Elizabeth Hamilton.....Brandon, MS
William Alex Hamilton.....Brandon, MS
Mary Elizabeth Hammack.....Madison, MS
Baleigh Ann Hand.....Brandon, MS
Ashleigh Elizabeth Hardy.....Madison, MS
Abbygail N. Hicks.....Southaven, MS
Lacey Higgins.....Pontotoc, MS
Kathryn Wesley Hodges.....Itta Bena, MS
Mary Kate Holder.....Union, MS
Maggie Lyn Holt.....West, MS
Rebecca Anne Hooker.....Terry, MS
Alexa Hunter.....Southaven, MS
Seleigh Jackson.....New Albany, MS
Caleb Franklin Jeff.....Brandon, MS
Colton Harris Johnson.....Laurel, MS
Austin James Johnston.....Columbus, MS
Hannah Alex Jones.....Raymond, MS
Taylor Jones.....Florence, MS
Kimberlee Ann Keltner.....Hernando, MS
Taylor Longele.....Brandon, MS
Victoria K. Langworthy.....Clinton, MS
Anna E. Learned.....Southaven, MS
Cayla Lloyd.....Madison, MS
John Benton Long.....Bruce, MS
Hunter Lynch.....Vicksburg, MS
Thomas Martin.....Madison, MS
Rebecca Martin.....Florence, MS
Karleigh Michelle Maze.....Madison, MS
Allison Aker McCaffrey.....Brookhaven, MS
Lindsey Faith McCarty.....Flowood, MS
Kevin Daniel McCully.....Tupelo, MS
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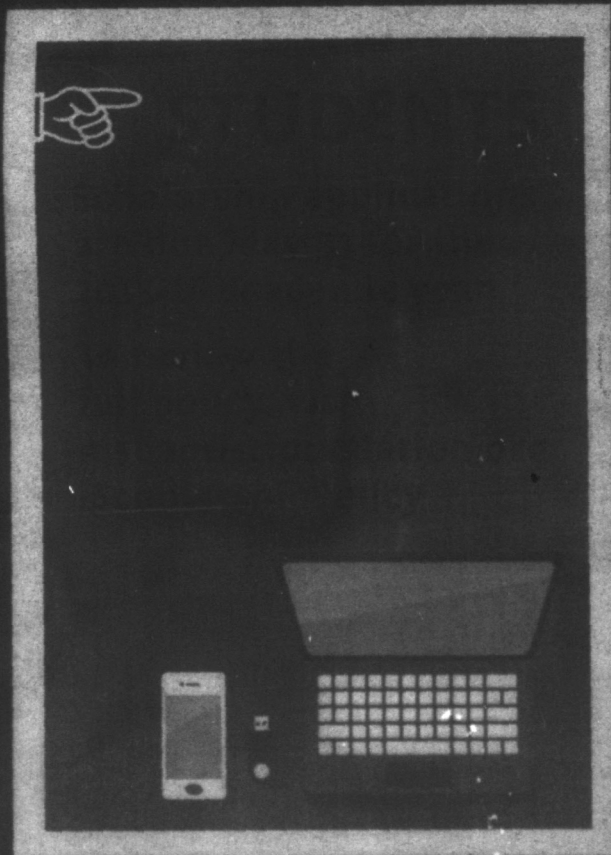
Continued from MBF News page 1

While recipients are genuinely thankful for the scholarships that the Foundation offers, our awards represent only a fraction of the total cost to attend college or seminary. Currently, the average award is just under \$500 per semester to eligible students. While "every little bit helps" is certainly accurate, the average Foundation scholarship award is not substantially higher than the average amount awarded to students decades ago.

The endowments from which the Foundation is privileged to award scholarship grants stem from generous Mississippi Baptists who desire to make a Kingdom investment in college and seminary students. Many of these scholarship endowments were established in memory

and honor of a friend, family member, or other loved one. Some of our scholarship endowments are focused on students attending a particular college or seminary, while others emphasize a specific major or degree program. Several of our scholarship funds favor students from an association or church. And, while the Foundation strives to encourage approximately 300 students each year with a scholarship, our opportunity for ministry is constrained by the limited amount of funds that are available. Therein lies the challenge to you as an individual or your church collectively. *Would you be willing to establish an endowed scholarship fund through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation?* Or, in simple terms:

Would you consider planting a tree today (through an endowed scholarship fund) in order for someone else to enjoy the shade? The blessings that will flow to both the donor who gives and the students who receive will be immeasurable!



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Thursday, June 25 – 12:00 p.m.

or

Tuesday, July 14 – 3:00 p.m.

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BIBL i O C I P H E R

ZVAC GSHT MENCTLL VP AED, SCW

XHETW, LSJECR, NAEL MSL AT VP

MAVD E LKSFT, AT NASN XVDNTA

SPNTH DT EL KHTPTHHTW GTPVHT

DT: PVH AT MSL GTPVHT DT.

ZVAC VCT: PEPNTTC

Clue: A = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 1:2

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

SCOUTS

cont. from p. 1

voluntarily accept homosexual leaders before a court forces them to do so.

"Between internal challenges and potential legal conflicts, the BSA finds itself in an unsustainable position," Gates said, according to a copy of his prepared remarks, "a position that makes us vulnerable to the possibility the courts simply will order us at some point to change our membership policy. We must all understand that this probably will happen sooner rather than later."

However, Gates said a new leadership policy should "allow all churches, which sponsor some 70% of our Scout units, to establish leadership standards consistent with their faith. We must, at all costs, preserve the religious freedom of our church partners to do this."

Easley, pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga., questioned whether the BSA can truly protect religious liberty for churches with Scout troops.

"Our religious liberties are being stripped away state by state," Easley told Baptist Press, "and depending on what the Supreme Court does in the next month or so, it may be the end of religious liberty as this nation has known it historically so

"Our religious liberties are being stripped away state by state, and depending on what the Supreme Court does in the next month or so, it may be the end of religious liberty as this nation has known it historically..."

Ernest Easley

pastor of Roswell Street Church in Marietta, Ga.

I don't think religious liberty is even going to be an issue much anymore."

In 2013, BSA voted to approve new membership guidelines stating, "No youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone." Previously, a Boy Scouts policy stated, "Boy Scouts of America believes that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with obligations in the Scout Oath and Scout Law to be morally straight and clean in thought, word, and deed."

Initially, BSA executive leadership planned to change Scouts policies to allow avowed homosexuals to become members and hold leadership positions, but following an outcry from Scouts, their families, sponsoring organizations, and the American public, the BSA board took additional time to review the policy and recommended changing only the membership standards.

Less than a month after the change of policy, messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Houston adopted a resolution expressing "continued opposition to and disappointment in the decision of the Boy Scouts of America to change its membership policy."

The resolution said the Scouts' decision was "viewed by many homosexual activists as merely the first step in the process that will fundamentally change the BSA," putting "the Scouts at odds with a consistent biblical worldview on matters of human sexuality." The resolution added that the decision had "the potential to complicate basic understandings of male friendships, needlessly politicize human sexuality, and heighten sexual tensions within the Boy Scouts."

At the time, Southern Baptist leaders echoed the resolution's prediction the Scouts would eventually drop their ban on homosexual leaders. Among the leaders voicing that opinion were Steve Lemke of New Orleans Seminary, Russell Moore of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and Roger S. Oldham of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We grieve that the Scouts have planted the seed of their eventual destruction," Oldham, vice president for convention communications and relations, said at the time. "It won't happen overnight, but the course has been set."

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Revivals & Homecomings

► **Calvary Church, Carroll County:** 137th Homecoming, May 31; services, 10:30 a.m., with singing by Benny Rigby, followed by dinner; Terry Corley, speaker; Bud Vance, pastor.

Vacation Bible School

► **Calvary Church, Silver Creek:** Preregistration May 30, 1-3 p.m. (be prepared to get wet); June 7-12, 5:30-8 p.m.; ages 3-18.

► **First Church, Morton:** June 1-5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; ages K-6th grade.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MARCH 2015 HONOR CORRECTION

Lois Umfress
Faithful Followers SSC,
FBC Pontotoc

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They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

A Pure People • Malachi 3:1-7; 3:16-4:2

What a day that will be! We all have special days we have looked forward to...just can't wait!

Such was the case for Malachi. God gave him a vision of a day in the future for the people of Israel for which they had long dreamed, the Day of the Lord. It would be a day when The Lord will judge unbelievers. It would also be a time when the Lord cleanses His people. Finally, it will be a day bringing the Lord's eternal plan of salvation to reality. Yes, what a day that will be! How shall we know that day?

God's Messenger (Malachi 3:1-5)

"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before Me." (Malachi 3:1 NKJV)

Those who in Malachi 2:17 questioning, "Where is the God of Justice?", were quickly answered. God's messenger will prepare the way and "the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple." Then Malachi warns them that day will be a "refining day". They will subject to cleansing and refining such that only those pure can come into the presence of the Lord.

The cleansing will first cleanse the Levitical priest, as they had permitted unacceptable offerings. Then the judgment would be against all who refuse to follow the Law of God.

God's power to deliver judgment is designed to get the attention of those who think

EVERYONE will eventually get into heaven. God is the God of love, but also of justice.

God's Unchangeable Character (Malachi 3:6-7)

"For I am the Lord, I do not change." (Malachi 3:6 NKJV)

Malachi reminds the people of Israel of the steadfast character of our Holy God. His attributes are the same, as are His ordinances. He reminds them they have not kept His ordinances. Their hypocrisy is exposed. But neither has His mercy changed. "Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of Hosts." (v. 7) The solution for them and for us, repent of sin and return to God.

God's Record (Malachi 3:16-18)

"So a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name." (Malachi 3:16 NKJV)

The book of remembrance was long established in the faith of God's people. It

looks forward to the Lamb's Book of Life in Revelation 20:15. Those whose names are written in this book are those "who fear the Lord and meditate on His name." They shall be Mine, says the Lord of Hosts" (v. 16-17) Malachi reminds the people that God knows His own, the righteous from the wicked, and those who serve from those who do not.

Matthew 25: 11-12 "Lord, Lord, open to us! But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say, I do not know you.' Many will cry for mercy then, but then...it will be too late."



Explore the Bible

with Kiely D. Young

us! But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say, I do not know you.' Many will cry for mercy then, but then...it will be too late."

Hope for the Faithful (Malachi 4:1-2)

"But to you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings." (Malachi 4:2 NKJV)

"For behold the day is coming, burning like an oven..." v. 1

A day of refining...no...a day of judgment! The proud, the arrogant, the wicked will be burned up and become rubble, leaving them no followers.

But for the followers of God, those who walk in His righteousness, blessings await.

Not only will they be completely healed of all iniquity of the past, but they will feast on the righteousness of God and become "like stall-fed calves".

Malachi was getting a glimpse of the same things that John saw as God revealed to him the awesomeness of heaven, which Paul said there is nothing on earth that can begin to compare.

Revelation 21 gives a glorious description of heaven. "But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its Light....But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." (Revelation 21:22,23,27)

"What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face,
The One who saved me by His grace;
When He takes me by the hand
And leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day, glorious day that will be."
(Words by Jim Hill)

Young is retired Sunday School Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and a member of Ridgcrest Church, Madison.

Stick with Acceptance • Romans 14:1-4, 13-19

My sister and I used to do what your siblings and you probably have done. Once in a while we would "trade shoulder punch licks." We would go at it for a bit, punch for punch, until finally one of us would say, "OK, stop! Now we're even!" Our grandfather heard that comment once, rolling his eyes at our grandmother as we heard him say, "Well, I betcha we're fixin' to be odd again!" Yep. People seem to thrive at finding ways of being at odds with one another. That same grandmother used to spout this little piece of wisdom: "Well, if two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary." Good disagreement is one thing. Judging other folks is another thing altogether.

How in the world do human beings create the image of God manage to have "disagreement" in their DNA? The three-letter one-word answer to this question is SIN. Sin comes armed with its sharpest arrow called selfishness. We have our own personal agenda and we don't seem to want it changed, even if there is a justified reason for the change. "Sin" and "selfishness" have a lot in common: "I" is in the middle of 'em. Same thing goes with pride and lie. People arrive on earth with "I" problems. The terrible twos have nothing to do with age.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul gave us a gold nugget in Ro-

mans 14:19. "So then, let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another." Honestly, living according to that verse would solve just about every possible relationship conflict scenario. "I" trouble could disappear completely.

Believers in Rome in those early days of the church fought over things that we might consider trivial. Jews had been raised to eat a certain diet and observe special feast days. Gentile believers who were being reached by the gospel had no such restrictions. Some of them were being told that they had to become Jews FIRST and then Christians. Wow. What a mess that must have been. We fight over paint and carpet colors and music styles and other very important stuff like that. HMMmmm? I don't hear even one AMEN...

In this lesson, we are dealing with our final "bonding agent" for relationships: acceptance. We have learned to

stick with love, encouragement, forgiveness, service and humility. Paul was asking the people to do three things in regard to disputes among first century believers. First, they were to FESS UP to the fact that they were not the judges of each other. They all report to God. Second, they were to LIFT UP each other by their own actions, making sure that they were not causing other believers to stumble because of their actions. Third, they were to seek ways

to BUILD UP one another by pursuing peace.

FESS up. Lift up. Build up. God is pleased when we let Him

be God. He loves it when we leave the judging to Him. We spend lots of time telling people they need to let Jesus be Lord of their lives. This is worthy counsel. Meanwhile, should we not remember to let Jesus be Jesus and Lord of the lives of others and not attempt to become self-appointed "Junior Holy Spirit" in matters that are not our re-

sponsibility? We are never given the job of convicting others of sinfulness. That job belongs to the Lord Who called them unto Himself.

As we bring these lessons to a close for this quarter, one final point needs to be made to draw all of these lessons together. Our best example of each of the six "bonding agents" is the life and ministry of Jesus. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. Jesus was the forerunner for us. He came to show LOVE. He was an ENCOURAGER. He provided FORGIVENESS. His final act was the SERVICE of washing the feet of the disciples. As we saw last week, the whole incarnation of Jesus screamed of HUMILITY. Then, in matters of ACCEPTANCE...ask Mary Magdalene who was demon possessed and freed...ask those ten lepers who were cleansed and restored...ask the woman caught in adultery and left unstoned...ask the blind men who were given back their sight...ask the man who lost an earlobe in the Garden of Gethsemane and was healed...ask those disciples about their clean, washed feet. Stick with...Jesus.

Brown is staff evangelist, First Church, Richland.

NEPAL

cont. from p. 1

"These types of communities are away from the help of other organizations and meet the criteria which facilitates local church involvement and volunteer opportunities with our Southern

Baptist partners," said Jeff Palmer, BGR executive director.

BGR and their local partners have so far distributed 2,275 bags of rice that benefited more than 11,000 people. They plan to continue in this initial relief phase of food distributions and providing temporary shelter until impact communities have

been identified and moved past the "just surviving" stage.

Francis Horton, who is coordinating the earthquake response for BGR, explained that this process is called "Disaster to Development." He estimated it might take anywhere from six to 12 months and will require the help of local believers and Southern Baptist partners.

The Southern Baptist Disaster relief network is deploying two Rapid Assistance Teams to help with more distributions and clearing away some of the rubble. Their help will be welcomed in this village. Most of the mud-brick homes were totally destroyed.

Volunteer requests are in process for teams to work with

forgotten villages like this one. Their needs are great. Most residents need to not only build temporary shelters for protection during monsoon season, but they also need to plant their crops. If they don't get the seeds in the ground, it could jeopardize food security for next year.

Just for the Record



The youth of **FARMHAVEN CHURCH, CANTON**, presented an Easter program recently.



The GA's (grades 1-6) of **WEST HEIGHTS CHURCH, PONTOTOC**, recently held their GA recognition service. Shown are the GA's and their leaders. Jennifer Quarles, director.



HICKORY GROVE CHURCH, LAMAR, recognized its high school and college graduates May 17. Shown are Anna Patterson, Laken Bond, Tyler Chambliss, and Andrew Walden.



MT. HOREB CHURCH, MERIDIAN, held a baby dedication service for the Gordon family. Shown are Scott holding Julianna Grace, along with Tiffany and Jacob.

In other Church News:

► **First Church, Runnelstown**, will dedicate its new fellowship hall May 31 following the 10 a.m. service. Potluck lunch. Hal Hatten, pastor.

► **The Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Association** will be offering Training Education for Ministry Assistants August 11-13, 2015 at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center. The seminar will provide a general overview of professional techniques including office and technical skills, communication, and people skills specific to the religious environment, which is uniquely different from the secular work arena. Church ministry assistants and support staff of all Baptist denominational agencies and institutions statewide are encouraged to participate.

► **High Hill Church, Neshoba County**, will host The Riders in concert May 31, 6 p.m. Don Cook, pastor; Mike Barker, music leader.



HIGH HILL CHURCH, Neshoba County, recognizes its graduates. Shown are Ashley Ware, pastor Don Cook, Jared Marshall, and Alica Dempsey.



LOOP ROAD CHURCH, PERRY ASSOCIATION, held a baby and child dedication Apr. 19. Shown are the parents, children, and pastor Rory M. Dill.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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